

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the Office Action dated December 10, 2004, claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 and 16 are canceled, and claims 17-24 are added. Claims 17-24 are now active in this application. The claim amendments are based on the description of the application and no new matter has been added. Claims 5, 6-8, 14 and 15 are withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention.

REJECTION OF CLAIMS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 2, 9-11 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Ostromoukhov (USPN 5,737,453)

The indication that claims 3, 4, 12 and 13 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims is acknowledged and appreciated.

To expedite prosecution, claims 3, 4, 12 and 13 are cancelled, and new claims 17-26 are submitted. Claim 17 is derived from a combination of claims 1 and 3, but includes additional recitations to clarify the claimed subject matter. Claim 21 is derived from a combination of claims 10 and 12, but includes additional recitations to clarify the claimed subject matter also. As claim 17 includes the limitations in original claims 1 and 3, and claim 21 includes the limitations in original claims 10 and 12, new independent claims 17 and 21 are believed to be allowable, as are claims 2 and 18-20 depending from new independent claim 17, and claims 11 and 21-24 depending from new independent claim 21.

Method claim 25 is derived from new claim 17 and method claim 26 is derived from new claim 21. Consequently, method claims 25 and 26 are believed to be allowable also.

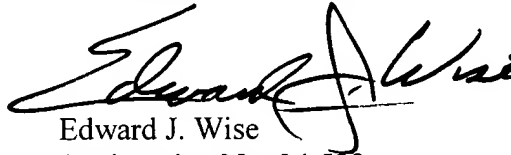
CONCLUSION

Accordingly, it is urged that the application, as now amended, is in condition for allowance, an indication of which is respectfully solicited. If there are any outstanding issues that might be resolved by an interview or an Examiner's amendment, Examiner is requested to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number shown below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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